

# Maldives – Rural Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET . . . . .



The Maldives – Rural GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Maldives could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Maldives – Rural GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Grade 8, Grade 9, and Grade 10 conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Rural Maldives. At the first stage all schools were selected to participate in the survey. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 84.8%, and the overall response rate was 84.8%. A total of 2,247 students participated in the Maldives – Rural GYTS.

## Prevalence

- 26.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 37.6%, Girls = 11.5%)
- 11.8% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 15.7%, Girls = 6.4%)
- 6.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 12.0%, Girls = 3.6%)
- 6.9% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 8.0%, Girls = 5.3%)
- 8.3% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

## Knowledge and Attitudes

- 41.2% think boys and 13.9% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 18.3% think boys and 14.5% think girls who smoke look more attractive

## Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 13.8% usually smoke at home
- 35.1% buy cigarettes in a store
  - \* who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

## Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 54.2% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 79.9% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 93.1% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 66.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 52.5% have one or more parents who smoke
- 8.4% have most or all friends who smoke

## Cessation - Current Smokers

- 81.1% want to stop smoking
- 71.7% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 93.6% have ever received help to stop smoking

## Media and Advertising

- 95.1% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 47.1% saw pro-cigarette ads in a local Maldivian newspaper or magazine in the past 30 days
- 52.3% saw pro-cigarette ads in a foreign newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 6.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 8.9% were offered free cigarettes by a shopkeeper or others

## School

- 32.9% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 29.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

## Highlights

- 11.8% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 6.6% of students currently smoke cigarettes and 6.9% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high –half the students live in homes where others smoke and more than three quarters of the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; more than half of the students have a parent who smokes and almost one out of 10 students have friends who smoke.
- 6 in 10 of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 8 in 10 of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- Almost one out of 10 students were offered a free cigarette by a tobacco company representative.
- More than 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; Over 5 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.

\* denotes cell size less than 35.